



6:30pm Bible Study: Pastor Chip Luter

Wednesday, August 8, 2023

10 Questions To Diagnose Your Spiritual Health by Donald Whitney (Part I)

Opening Discussion

- What are some common tests you must take when you go for your check up at the doctor's office? Why are these tests important?
- How do you diagnose your spiritual health?

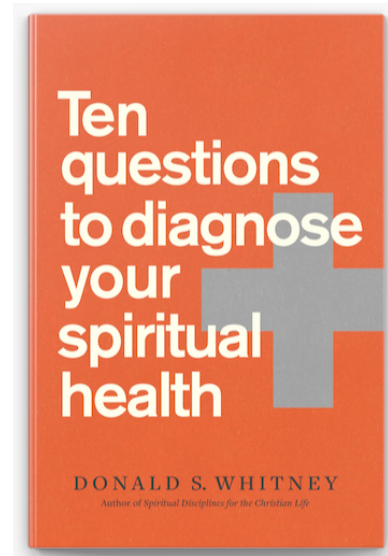
Why Is this diagnosis so important?

- Psalm 51:10-17
- Psalm 139:23-24

Questions To Diagnose Your Spiritual Health

1.) Do You Thirst For God?

- 3 Kinds of Spiritual Thirst
 - Thirst of the Empty Soul
 - Thirst of the Dry Soul
 - Thirst of the Satisfied Soul
- Practical Steps For Thirsting After God
 - Meditate on Scripture (Psalm 1:1-2).
 - Pray through Scripture.
 - Example: Psalm 63
 - Book recommendation: Praying the Bible by Donald Whitney
 - Read thirst-making writers.



2.) Are You Governed Increasingly By God's Word?

- "The sum and substance of the preparation needed for a coming eternity is that you believe what the Bible tells you and do what the Bible bids you." - Thomas Chalmers
- Developing Your Dependence on God's Word
 - Deepen your desire for God's Word (1 Peter 2:2-3).
 - Make time for God's Word.
 - Read the Bible daily and do not close it until you know at least one thing God would have you do in response to your reading.
 - List at least five areas you have not recently considered from a biblical perspective. Then search the Scriptures and prayerfully consider one area each day for the next five days.
 - Train yourself to ask, "How does the Bible speak to this?" (1 Chronicles 12:32)

3.) Are You More Loving?

- John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:7-8, 18-21
- Those who are growing in love will demonstrate it in at least 3 areas:
 - Love for other Christians (1 John 3:14, Galatians 6:10).
 - Love for the lost (Luke 6:27-36).
 - Love for your family (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Ephesians 5:22-33; 6:1-4).
- How do we cultivate love in our daily lives?
 - Meditate on love as the most important distinguishing mark of a Christian.
 - Let your heart be often warmed by the fire of God's love.
 - Discover the assurance that God is your Father by loving as He loves.
 - Delight in imitating God (Ephesians 5:1-2)
 - Identify those relationships where you most need to grow in love.
 - Take the initiative in showing love, especially where you have little or no expectation of love in return.

4.) Are You More Sensitive To God's Presence?

- When was the last time you thought, "God is here"?
- How many times as a Christian have you experienced the words of Jacob in Genesis 28:16?
- When have you heard of it from other Christians you know?
- Theological Meanings of "The Presence Of God"
 - The universal presence of God (Psalm 139:5-12).
 - The Christological presence of God (Matthew 1:23).
 - The indwelling presence of God (John 14:16-17).
 - The perceptible presence of God (Luke 1:66; Acts 11:21).
 - The heavenly presence of God (Matthew 6:9, 18:10).
 - The eternal presence of God (Revelation 21:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:9).
- What practical steps can we take to grow in our awareness of the continuous presence of God?
 - Go often to the place where God has revealed Himself most clearly - the Bible.
 - Acknowledge His presence with you by talking with Him.
 - Seek Him in the manifestations of His presence given only in congregational worship.
 - Continually reaffirm the truth that He is omnipresent.

5.) Do You Have A Growing Concern For The Spiritual And Temporal Needs Of Others?

- "There is nothing in which men resemble God more truly than in doing good to others."
- John Calvin
- The Bible clearly teaches Christians to be concerned for both the spiritual and the temporal needs of people (Acts 4:33-34; Galatians 2:10).
- How do we grow in the balance of meeting spiritual and temporal needs of others?
 - Go to the Great Ophthalmologist (2 Corinthians 4:5-6).
 - Look for the hurt in every heart and home (Matthew 9:35-36).
 - Do something for the gospel and for the good of others (John 13:1-17)